



Christ The King Federation

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St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Headteacher Miss T. North

St Francis RC Primary School

Acting Headteacher: Mrs C. Peear

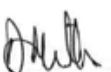


HOMework POLICY

FEDERATION MISSION STATEMENT

Christ The King Federation is a community called by God to work collaboratively for the common good; providing an environment that nurtures and inspires pupils to realise their potential, as we journey together.

This federation is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share in this commitment

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Introduction

Christ The King Federation define the term 'homework' widely, to mean any work or activities which pupils are asked to do outside lesson time, either on their own or with parents or carers. Homework is an opportunity for parents to become active partners in supporting learning. Homework should also be enjoyable for the child involved and should stimulate imagination and creativity as well as reinforcing what is taught in the classroom.

Homework can cover a very wide range of activities, depending on the age of the child, but throughout the primary years, a consistent emphasis will be put on reading for pleasure and purpose as part of homework.

Why is Homework Important?

There is no legal requirement for schools to provide a set amount of homework or for primary children to undertake formal homework. Within Christ The King Federation however, it is a vital means of helping to raise pupil achievement and of enabling the school to offer some pastoral support beyond the school day. As such, we believe homework requires a vital commitment by teachers, pupils and parents. Teachers are required to set homework under this policy.

Homework is important and to be most effective, parents, carers, staff and pupils need to understand its purpose. Homework:

- consolidates and reinforces what is learnt in the classroom
- builds up basic skills (particularly reading, writing and mathematics)
- encourages curious and independent learners
- helps develop good study habits for the pupils
- prepares pupils for the next stage of education
- provides teachers with an opportunity to support and extend individual pupils
- encourages pupils to share their learning with parents and carers
- enables parents and carers to become involved with their children's learning

Homework set within Christ The King Federation is meant to fulfil these objectives.

It is important that every child sees that home and school are working together in partnership to provide help, support and encouragement. Homework can help to promote a positive attitude to learning at home and provides a vital link between home and school.

Helping Pupils to Achieve Through Homework

Pupils are different and work and learn at varying speeds. Teachers plan homework as part of their schemes of work for different areas of the curriculum, particularly English and Mathematics.

At Christ The King Federation we ensure that pupils of all ages understand what they are expected to do at home, and why, and how it will help them to improve their work in class.

The time set for homework is less important than the quality of the tasks set and the way in which they relate clearly to supporting learning in the classroom.

Nonetheless, in our homework policy we set out a framework which recommends certain periods of time to be spent on homework at different stages. This is a helpful guideline for parents and pupils. It also helps to create an expectation and a discipline for regular, independent, learning.

Table 1: Recommended time allocation for homework

Reception	30 mins/week	Mathematics or English, daily reading, letter sounds.
Years 1 and 2	1 hour/week	Reading, spellings, other English work and number work, mathematics, times tables. Occasional projects and research linked to other subjects. Activities on Mathletics.
Years 3 and 4	1.5 hours/week	English and mathematics, multiplication tables, Mathletics, spellings and reading. Occasional assignments in other subjects.
Years 5 and 6	30 minutes/day	English, spellings, mathematics and Mathletics, but also ranging widely over the curriculum with occasional projects and research.

It is our expectation that homework will be completed carefully and returned on time. Teachers will offer opportunities through the week to provide support for children to help them with any homework that is confusing or difficult for the pupils to complete. When necessary pupils will be given the opportunity to use school IT equipment for the completion of activities which require the internet, such as Mathletics, online research or tasks set on Google Classroom.

Where homework is frequently missed or not completed, late or of poor quality, the children's parents or carers will be contacted by the class teacher.

How Parents and Carers Can Support Pupils' Learning Through Homework

Parents and carers play a vital role in their children's lasting success. At Christ The King Federation, homework plays a valuable part of our Home-School Agreement as a whole. That partnership is reflected in our Home-School Agreement which makes it clear that we see the support for homework as a joint undertaking.

Each child is provided with a Home/School Record which invites parents to comment upon reading completed at home and sign on a daily/weekly basis.

We aim to involve parents wherever possible in supporting their children's learning.

We recommend that parents give a little time every day for homework rather than an intensive period once or twice a week. Parents and carers can help with homework in different ways at different stages.

Most important, parents and carers are asked to:

- Make it clear to pupils how much they value homework and support the school in explaining how it can help their learning
- Praise and encourage pupils when they take pride in their homework
- Provide a peaceful and comfortable place, free from distractions such as television, where pupils can concentrate on their homework
- Encourage pupils of all ages to read as much and as widely as possible
- Check that tasks are completed on time and to a suitable standard
- Ensure the Home/School Books are filled in as appropriate
- Contact the children's class teacher if they have any questions regarding homework tasks that have been set or the Head of School / Executive Headteacher if they have queries of a general nature regarding homework.

Special Educational Needs

Homework for pupils with special educational needs will reflect their different needs and abilities and be related to their Educational, Health Care Plans (EHCP). Class teachers will also ensure that homework set:

- is differentiated for and appropriate to the individual needs of the child
- varied and with a range of ways of showing progress
- has a clear focus and manageable timetable.

How Will Pupils and Parents Know What has Been Achieved?

At Christ The King Federation, our pupils, parents and staff expect and receive appropriate feedback on homework. Ways of providing these include:

- monitoring the Home/School Record
- verbal feedback from classroom teachers to each pupil
- marking of routine written tasks
- written feedback on longer written assignments
- praise and recognition in classroom and assemblies which reward and motivate all pupils.